

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
September 8, 2000**

PURPOSE:	Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider commercial fishing options.
TAC:	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u>Federally Listed Species</u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
Snake River Fall	Threatened	May 22, 1992
Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
Snake River	Threatened	October 17, 1997
Upper Columbia River	Endangered	October 17, 1997
Middle Columbia River	Threatened	May 24, 1999
Lower Columbia River	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u>Cutthroat Trout</u>		
Southwest Washington	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<u>Oregon State Listed Species</u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
Lower Columbia	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 31, 2000.

2000 Management Agreement

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the aggregate URB run.

- The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- The treaty Indian fall fishery will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

2000 Stock Status

Summer Steelhead

- On September 6 Bonneville Dam flow was 113 kcfs which is 103% of the recent 10-year average of 109 kcfs. Water temperature was 67°F which is less than the recent 10-year average of 70°F.
- To date 51% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have crossed The Dalles Dam which is 127% of the recent 10-year average of 40%.

Summer Steelhead Dam Counts					
			Cumulative through September 6		
		September 6 Daily	2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	----	16,542	7,162	9,508
	Group A Index	2,171	187,689	153,365	147,206
	Group B Index	1,119	14,424	6,311	6,327
	Total Counts	3,290	218,655	166,838	163,041
The Dalles		4,230	111,351	89,683	73,038
John Day		2,890	82,009	68,242	51,106
McNary		1,663	49,079	39,515	37,015
Ice Harbor		1,509	25,188	26,514	22,026
Lower Granite		1,564	11,680	12,095	7,942
Priest Rapids		175	6,930	4,850	3,778

- The Group A index count to date has been comprised of 32% wild fish. Typically 89% of the wild run and 80% of the hatchery run has passed Bonneville Dam by September 6.
- The Group B index count to date has been comprised of 40% wild fish. Typically 48% of the wild run and 30% of the hatchery run has passed Bonneville Dam by September 6.

Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,400	27	143,300	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	17	38,400	83	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,700	78	57,400
1993	28,600	21	108,100	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	20	22,300	80	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,800	14	11,400	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,600	85	174,300	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,400	85	208,300	3,900	11	32,700	89	3,600
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	8	36,800	92	40,200
1999	56,600	32	119,800	68	176,400	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000 Proj.	65,000	29	157,300	71	222,300	11,000	33	22,800	67	33,800

- Based on a count of 58,100 wild Group A index steelhead through September 3 TAC updated the run size to 65,000.
- Preseason forecasts projected returns of 210,000 Group A index steelhead (52,700 wild and 157,300 hatchery) and 33,800 Group B index steelhead (11,000 wild and 22,800 hatchery) past Bonneville Dam.

Fall Chinook

Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts					
		September 6 Daily	Cumulative through September 6		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	7,532	112,169	97,572	88,355
	Tules	1,611	16,037	26,054	15,670
	Total Counts	9,143	128,206	123,626	104,025
The Dalles		2,903	73,908	51,898	45,617
John Day		2,119	56,460	33,359	29,362
McNary		3,108	34,513	20,642	18,150
Priest Rapids		506	19,343	13,007	7,506
Ice Harbor		125	2,317	1,450	933
Lower Granite		120	845	545	240

- Typically 50% of the bright adult run and 51% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 6. Run timing may be early due to favorable migration conditions.
- Passage for brights is tracking similar to and for tules is tracking ahead of preseason expectations based on normal run timing.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>				
Stock	1995-1999 Average	1999 Return	2000 Preseason Forecast	Comments
URB	144,100	166,100	208,200	Largest since 1989
SRW	1,800	2,739	1,764	Average
MCB	47,800	49,600	58,400	Above average
BPH	32,900	50,200	26,900	Average
LRH	52,700	40,000	26,400	Record low, hatchery cuts
LRW	10,700	3,300	2,700	Record low, flooding events
LRB	NA	1,100	3,200	Formerly a component of the BUB stock
SAB	4,200	2,900	3,100	Below average
Total	289,000	313,100	328,900	

- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 6 are 2,820 males, 1,398 females, and 2,256 jacks. Escapement goals are 7,000 adults (4,000 females).

Sport Fishery Updates

Buoy 10 Fishery

- The Buoy 10 sport fishery opened August 1 for chinook salmon, adipose fin marked coho, and adipose fin marked steelhead, with a daily catch limit of two fish of which only one can be a chinook.
- A 9,000 chinook mortality quota is in place and the fishery was closed to chinook retention during August 28-31 to ensure that this quota was not exceeded.
- Through September 4 an estimated 6,000 chinook and 18,200 coho have been landed by 61,200 anglers.
- Based on CWT data through August 27 the proportion of URB's in this fishery was 19% as compared to pre-season expectation of 43%.
- Chinook catch rates averaged one chinook for every 3-4 anglers during the last half of August but have declined during September.
- Coho catch rates during the last two weeks have ranged between 0.2-0.8 coho per angler.

Mainstem Salmon Fishery Below Bonneville Dam

- Mainstem Columbia (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and adipose fin clipped coho on August 1. The preliminary catch estimate during August is 3,400 chinook from 45,300 angler trips.
- Catch estimate of 3,400 chinook through the end of August is tracking to reach the preseason total catch expectation of 9,800.
- Effort steadily increased through August and peaked on the 26th with a record high aerial count of nearly 1,150 boats angling for salmon in the lower Columbia River. Effort index dropped to 850 boats the following weekend.
- Catch rates rose to a peak of 1 chinook per two boats during the first week of September but slowed to about 1 chinook for every 3 boats since Labor Day weekend.
- An estimated 3,800 marked steelhead were kept and 1,900 unmarked steelhead (190 mortalities) were released during the month of August. Based on run timing the vast majority of steelhead caught were Group A stock.

Mainstem Salmon Fishery Above Bonneville Dam

- Bonneville Pool tributaries are producing catches of mostly hatchery steelhead, with increasing numbers of fall chinook and coho.
- During the last half of September the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had catch rates of 0.08 chinook, 0.09 hatchery steelhead kept, and 0.07 wild steelhead released per angler.
- The Hanford Reach sport fishery opened on August 16. Catch rate last week averaged 2 chinook for every 3 boats.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update							
Stock	Aug 4-5	Aug 2S	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	369	2,603					
BPH	123	484					
MCB	353	2,159					
LRH	550	298					
LRW	0	0					
LRB	0	216					
SAB	31	0					
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>5,832</i>	<i>1,281</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>Coho</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>161</i>	<i>5,057</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>W. Sturgeon</i>	<i>2,357</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>
<i>G. Sturgeon</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>--</i>

- The Young's Bay Select Area fishery is open 7 days/week from September 5 through October 31. Catch in this fishery for the season is expected to total 33,000 coho and 1,000 chinook. Chinook catch to date has consisted of primarily SAB stock (77%).
- The Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River fisheries opened on September 5 and are scheduled to continue through the end of October.
- Fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Steamboat Slough will open September 7 and continue through October 31 and October 28, respectively.
- Catch expectations for the season are 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, 5,000 coho in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, 10,000 coho in Deep River, and 5,000 coho in Steamboat Slough.

Treaty Indian Fishery

Zone 6 Preliminary Catch Composition							
Dates		Total				Wild	
		Chinook	URB	BPH	MCB	Steelhead	A Index B Index
Aug C&S		225	165	20	40	2,660	400 60
Aug 30- Sep 2	Ticket	12,470				1,010	
	Non-Ticket	2,360		3,280	2,050	910	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>14,830</i>	<i>9,500</i>	<i>3,280</i>	<i>2,050</i>	<i>1,920</i>	<i>360 110</i>
Sep 5-9	<i>Proj. Total</i>	<i>22,700</i>	<i>13,700</i>	<i>6,200</i>	<i>2,800</i>	<i>3,700</i>	<i>660 220</i>
Grand Total		37,555	23,365	9,500	4,890	8,280	1,420 390

- During the first fishing period landings included 560 coho, 60 white sturgeon, and 20 walleye.

- Ticketed landings during September 5-6 are estimated to be 5,040 chinook, 750 steelhead, 350 coho, and 10 walleye.

1999 Zone 6 Set Net Counts						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Sep 3	none	219	136	143	498	366 on 9/3/99 and 473 on 9/3/98

Treaty Indian Fishery Proposal

- The Columbia Treaty tribes have provided the following Zone 6 treaty Indian commercial fishery option.

Proposed Season	
Season:	6 AM Tue Sep 12 to 6 PM Sat Sep 16
Area:	Bonneville to McNary Dams (Zones 61, 62, and 63).
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in place.
Gear:	No mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, walleye, and shad.
Catch Projections:	26,000 chinook (17,400 URB's, 5,400 BPH's, and 3,500 MCB's) 3,700 steelhead (550 wild A index and 270 wild B index).

- The tribal fishery through September 16 is projected to have a 19.6% harvest rate on URB's and 6.0% harvest rate impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

Next Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact be scheduled for September 15, 2000 at 10 AM at ODFW Headquarters Commission room in Portland to update salmon and steelhead stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
September 8, 2000